

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY NEA:MR ANDERSON:CHG

APPROVED BY NEA: MR STERNER

S/S-O - WR TWOHIE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL NEAR EASTERN AND SOUTH ASIAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XF, XI

SUBJECT: ZIEGLER PRESS CONFERENCE OCTOBER 8

1. FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM ZIEGLER PRESS CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 8.

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MR. ZIEGLER: AS WAS POINTED OUT IN THE REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT AND DR. KISSINGER, DR. KISSINGER HAS BEEN IN CLOSE TOUCH, DIPLOMATIC TOUCH, WITH BOTH SIDES, THE EGYPTIAN SIDE AND THE ISRAELI SIDE, OVER THE LAST FEW DAYS. HE HAS BEEN IN JUST ABOUT EQUAL TOUCH WITH BOTH OF THE PARTIES, THE PARTIES OF THE CONFLICT, SINCE THE HOSTILITIES BEGAN ON SATURDAY.

ALSO, AS DR. KISSINGER POINTED OUT, AND I WOULD REPEAT, WE HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL, AND ALSO IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE SOVIETS. THE PRESIDENT HAS EXCHANGED PERSONAL MESSAGES WITH CHAIRMAN BREZHNEV REGARDING THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST; THE EXCHANGE TOOK PLACE YESTERDAY EVENING.

Q. WAS THE QUOTE HOT LINE UNQUOTE USED, RON?

MR ZIEGLER: NO, THE QUOTE HOT LINE UNQUOTE WAS NOT USED. THE EXCHANGE OF MESSAGES OCCURRED THROUGH THE EMBASSIES, THE DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS.

Q. WELL, NOW, WHICH ONE WAS FIRST, CAN YOU TELL US THAT? IN OTHER WORDS, DID HE FIRST GET A MESSAGE OR LETTER FROM BREZHNEV AND THEN REPLY IN THIS MESSAGE THAT YOU REFERRED TO?

MR ZIEGLER: WELL, WE HAVE HAD A NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SOVIETS SINCE SATURDAY, WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE BETWEEN DR. KISSINGER AND AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN. THE EXCHANGE OF MESSAGES WHICH TOOK PLACE GREW OUT OF THOSE DISCUSSIONS. SO WHO INITIATED IT, I BELIEVE THE MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT WAS THE FIRST TO BE TRANSMITTED.

Q. CAN YOU TELL US WITHOUT GOING INTO THE CONTENT OF THE TWO MESSAGES, WHETHER THE OVERALL IMPORT OF THE BREZHNEV MESSAGE GAVE THE PRESIDENT ANY GROUND FOR OPTIMISM IN THIS PARTICULAR SITUATION?

MR. ZIEGLER: WELL, LET ME JUST SAY BEFORE WE GET INTO ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS ON THE PERSONAL EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND CHAIRMAN BREZHNEV, I CANNOT GET INTO THE DETAILS OF THAT AND I WON'T.

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IN TERMS OF CHARACTERIZING THE SITUATION, I WOULD HAVE TO STATE THAT OBVIOUSLY IT IS A SERIOUS SITUATION. I THINK THE FACT THAT WE ARE IN TOUCH WITH BOTH SIDES AT THIS TIME, AT THIS POINT DURING THIS CONFLICT, PERHAPS PROVIDES US A BETTER OPPORTUNITY TO ACHIEVE THE DIPLOMATIC OBJECTIVES OR THE OBJECTIVES THAT WE SEEK TO STOP THE HOSTILITIES.

THIS IS SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT, AS YOU MAY RECALL, THAN

THE SITUATION WAS IN 1967.

Q. WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY BOTH SIDES, RON?

MR. ZIEGLER: WELL, DR. KISSINGER IS IN FREQUENT CONTACT WITH THE EGYPTIAN SIDE, THE ARAB SIDE, AND ALSO THE ISRAELI SIDE.

Q. AT THE UNITED NATIONS?

MR. ZIEGLER: THROUGH THE FOREIGN MINISTERS, YES, SIR.

Q. RON, HAS THERE BEEN ANY CONTACT WITH KING HUSSEIN?

MR. ZIEGLER: I BELIEVE HENRY HAS --BECAUSE HIS DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS HAVE BEEN SO BROAD, I WOULD ASSUME THAT THE STATE DEPT. HAS HAD SOME CONTACT WITH JORDAN, YES.

Q. RON, IN THE COMMUNICATION WITH JORDAN HAS THE US URGED KING HUSSEIN TO STAY OUT OF THE HOSTILITIES?

MR. ZIEGLER: I WANT TO CAUTION YOU ON MY RESPONSE. I HAVE NOT TALKED DIRECTLY TO DR. KISSINGER OR THE PRESIDENT REGARDING ANY CONTACT WITH JORDAN, BUT SINCE THE DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS HAVE BEEN AS BROAD AS THEY HAVE, I WOULD ASSUME THAT THEY HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH. I AM NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE EXCHANGE IF IT TOOK PLACE.

Q. WHAT DEGREE OF APPREHENSION IS THERE, OR WHAT INDICATION, IF ANY, HAVE WE HAD THAT THE ARABS MIGHT THREATEN TO CURTAIL OIL SHIPMENTS IF THE US TAKES A POSITION IN THIS INITIATIVE THAT IS COUNTER TO ARAB OBJECTIVES?

MR. ZIEGLER: WELL, WE HAVE HAD NONE, BUT I WANT TO AGAIN EMPHASIZE THAT WE HAVE BEEN IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE ARAB SIDE, THE EGYPTIANS AND THE ISRAELIS TO MEET THE OBJECTIVES I HAVE TALKED ABOUT, AND WE HOPE AS A RESULT OF THESE CONTACTS AND AS A RESULT OF THE OTHER DIPLOMATIC UNCLASSIFIED

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CONTACTS THAT WE HAVE HAD, THAT WE CAN SEE THE FIGHTING BROUGHT TO AN END AND AN ATMOSPHERE RESTORED THAT WILL LEAD TO A SETTLEMENT OF THE DIFFERENCES.

SO, I WOULD ANSWER YOUR QUESTION BY SAYING THAT WE, FIRST OF ALL, HAVE HAD NONE AND REMIND YOU THAT WE ARE IN TOUCH WITH ALL PARTIES.

Q. RON, THERE HAS BEEN PRINTED SPECULATIONS THAT THE U.S., WHILE IT SEEKS AN END TO THE HOSTILITIES DOESN'T WANT ANY SORT OF CEASE-FIRE IN THE MIDDLE EAST UNTIL THE ISRAELIS HAVE MANAGED TO RECAPTURE THE TERRITORY THEY HAD BEFORE. IS THIS THE CASE?

MR. ZIEGLER: THERE IS ALL SORTS OF SPECULATION, OF COURSE, THAT OCCURS, BUT I WOULDN'T ASSOCIATE MYSELF WITH THAT SORT OF SPECULATION.

KISSINGER

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